

**Price of a barrel
of petroleum
today:**
US\$ 35.94

INSIDE TODAY
 WORLD NEWS

AFGHAN ATTACK



Afghan security forces run for the site of Afghan Justice Ministry following an attack in Kabul, Afghanistan on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009. Assaults, some wearing suicide vests, attacked the Justice Ministry and another government building in Afghanistan's capital Wednesday, causing multiple deaths and forcing workers to flee from building windows. See *INTERNATIONAL NEWS*

SPORTS NEWS

FAVRE OUT



This Sept. 28, 2008 file photo shows New York Jets quarterback Brett Favre acknowledging fans as he leaves the field after an NFL football game against the Arizona Cardinals at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. Favre's agent says the New York Jets quarterback will retire. See *Sports Today*

Would you like to Renew your Vows on a Private Island?



ORANJESTAD - Renew your Vows this Valentine's Day on paradise. De Palm Island gives you a Valentine's all-inclusive special, with the opportunity to renew your vows on 14 and 15 February. De Palm Island will have a romantic set-up on the beach where the ceremony of Vow renewal will take place. After this unforgettable ceremony each couple will receive a marriage certificate, which can be cherished for a lifetime. Besides renewing your Vows De Palm Island also offers you exhilarating fun activities.

After a memorable moment of renewing your Vows, you can visit Sunrise Spa and enjoy for an additional fee, a massage or couple's treatment on the beach. Or enjoy De Palm Islands recreational activities together with your loved one, such as snorkeling next to the blue parrotfish. Additionally, you can upgrade to Sea Trek and enjoy a unique experience by walking on the bottom of the ocean. The Valentine's all-inclusive special



Premium Chicken Line
 Crispy or Grilled



© 2008 McDonald's Corporation



CHICKEN CLUB BACON
 CHICKEN CLASSIC
 CHICKEN HONEY MUSTARD



includes: open bar, grill station and a mouth-watering all-you-can-eat buffet with a special Valentine's Day dessert prepared by Taste of Belgium. Another couple's favorite is the Blue Parrotfish Water park which was built not only for kids, but also for the young at heart! Bring your partner and have a blast in one of the adrenaline pumping water slides. In conclusion, you can enjoy of a complete romantic package for the entire day! So come and spend Valentine's Day at De Palm Island, renew your Vows and enjoy your day at this private paradise together with your loved one. For reservations visit De Palm activities Desk in your hotel or call 582-4400. Take advantage of the valentine's week promotion and receive 1 Free Valentine's Day T-Shirt per person by purchasing a day at De Palm Island, a romantic Sunset Sail, De Palm's exclusive Fantasy Cruise & Dinner on the beach, the popular Palm Pleasure Snorkel Adventure or the Happy Hour snorkel Sail



**HUNGRY?
LIKE THE WOLF?**

Hard Rock
 CAFE
 ARUBA

Open daily from 11 am.
 SOUTH BEACH BUILDING • PALM BEACH
 (in front of Radisson Hotel)
 CALL US AT 586 99 66
 HARDROCK.COM
 THE OFFICIAL FOOD OF ROCK

A match made in heaven

Alfonsina & Travis say “I Do” at sunset



EAGLE -Alfonsina Guanipa of Maracaibo, Venezuela and Travis Cole of Las Vegas, NV met by chance and faith guided them as one. The lovebirds met on www.ldsingles.com and both fell in love the second their eyes met via internet. They are not active religious members in that religion but God guided them in the right direction. They both met for the first time in Aruba which confirmed their feelings for each other even more. Travis knew he met the love of his life and proposed on that same day they met in Aruba. “I knew she was to be my forever partner in life,” replied Travis. Alfonsina confirmed as well that she had found the love of her life. The wedding plans took off quickly; they were lucky enough to find and discover Lissy Lampe of Ceremonies and Celebrations in Aruba. “Our wedding coordinator has been an amazing asset in planning our intimate wedding day, said Travis. They planned an Aruba wedding because the

island is where they first met in person and now Aruba holds an everlasting part of their lives. The wedding took place on February 5, 2009 at Manchebo Beach Resort at sunset.

Bella Aruba Photography was there to capture every angle while Alfonsina and Travis vowed their love as one. After the ceremony the newlyweds took breathtaking photos on Eagle Beach and were delighted with the gorgeous skies and crashing waves that made the evening memorable.

Following the photo shoot the couple dined at their resort, the Occidental Grand Aruba at the fine Italian restaurant L'Olio in an elegant setting. The true magic in our wedding was a dream come true of finding each other, getting married and being able to experience the best moment of our lives. It was truly a blessing to experience something so special to be married in Aruba. □

Photos by Angela Munzenhofer





VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL

All you can eat lobster and Mediterranean buffet
(or choose from our delicious a la carte options)

DATE: Saturday February 14, 2009

PRICE: \$58.00 adult

\$29.00 children (aged 5 and under eat free)

La Vista Restaurant is located at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino



Amazonia Churrascaria appreciates repeat visits



PALM BEACH – The Abath family, and the Shains, enjoyed the hospitality of Amazonia Churrascaria this week. Ruben & Maria Abath, both well-known local hospitality executives and their family

members dropped in for a quiet, private dinner, while the Shains, staying at the Marriott Aruba Resort celebrated their 5th wedding anniversary, their third visit to Aruba and their second dinner at the

Brazilian-style Palm Beach landmark eatery. Amazonia Churrascaria is gearing up for Valentine's day, getting ready to deliver romance, for an ultimate dinner experience this the coming weekend. □



Welcome to
Romance

*We set the perfect stage,
the rest is up to you...*

Candle Lit Beach Dinner

Saturday, February 14th, starting at sunset, experience an exquisite 4-course dinner right on the beach starting with Strawberry Champagne and culminating with Double Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Dipped Strawberries, and a red rose.

\$55 per person,
plus service charge and tax

All major credit card accepted
For reservations call Cupid,
at +297-526 6612 and +297-526 6613
Radisson.com/aruba

Radisson
ARUBA
RESORT, CASINO & SPA





*Cupid is cooking in
Our kitchen*

*Cupid just joined the Radisson's culinary team
and he will be preparing delicious Shrimp & Steak dinners
on Friday & Saturday in honor of Valentine's Day*

Experience Cupid's Cookin',
with a gourmet buffet & action station, red rose included, at



Bring Lady-love for dinner on Friday or Saturday before the Lighthing Parade

Come early to receive a 10% discount. **\$26 per person**, plus service charge and tax.

Radisson.com/aruba All major credit card accepted. For reservations call Cupid, at +297.526.6612 and +297.526 6613



Housekeeping Awards at La Cabana



EAGLE BEACH -- Executive Housekeeper Miriam Courtar surprised members of her department with well-deserved recognitions this week. "We believe," she says, "in pausing and recognizing our associates for a job well done, a gesture that will surely motivate them to perform even more productively, in order to keep our guests satisfied." The housekeeping department recognized "O" defect rooms, and Dolores

Flores, a floor supervisor who takes pride in her work made sure 89 rooms in her sections were flawlessly clean and in good working condition. Cecilia Letang, a housekeeper in that section, was also recognized for the quality of her work receiving a certificate and Gung Ho stars, which are part of an in-house reward system, for her share in the "O" defect program success. Team of the Month for the Housekeeping Department,

for January 2009, which reported all defects to Engineering and worked hard to fix them, before guest check-ins, consisted of Juanica, Maisy, Sylvania, Michelanda, Maria and Santo. Jacqueline Henriquez received the fun Smile of the Month award and Maria Magdalena Gomes was recognized for highest guest-mentions in January. Houseman Jorge Menstan also received numerous guest mentions for being super-



helpful in January and for going the extra mile. Glenda Croes of Engineering helped coordinate the effort with great passion and dedication and received an extra blessing and commendation from the Housekeeping Department. Pictured here, those who worked extra-hard at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club. □



**"FAVI FUNDACION
CU VISION"**

Loyal friends of Aruba honored at the Tamarijn Beach Resort



ORANJESTAD - Recently at the Tamarijn Beach, Aruba vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Tamarijn Beach which they call their home away from home. John & Debra Callahan and Jim & Barb Bender were honored as an Distinguished visitor for the Island of Aruba after coming to the Island for 13 years

Pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes together with honorees and also Francis Ridderstap from the Tamarijn Resort. □



Romance and Dance

Sway the night away and fall in love again with the taste and melody of the heart

Menu

Appetizer

Smoked Salmon Terrine

Smoked salmon stuffed with jumbo lump crab, served on a bed of lettuce, tossed with a delicate passion fruit & capers dressing

or

Beef Carpaccio

Thin sliced marinated raw beef fillet served with extra virgin olive oil and shaved Rocca Reggiano cheese over a bed of fresh arugula salad

or

Seafood Soup Mediterranean Style

Fresh grouper, shrimps, mussels, clams, squid, baby octopus in a bouquet of fresh herbed - flavored fish bouillon

Entrees

Grouper Fillet In A Lemon Butter & Capers Sauce

Grouper fillet baked with butter, extra virgin olive oil, capers, lemon and fresh parsley. Accompanied by : Boiled potato, Ratatouille, Broccoli

or

Churrasco Mr.Jazz

U.S. Tenderloin, juicy, tender & lean, 12 oz
Accompanied by Potato au gratin , mushrooms sauteed with spinach

or

Chicken Grill Fiorentina

Chicken fillet baked in extra virgin olive oil and topped with fresh spinach, cream and parmesan cheese
Accompanied by : Ratatouille, Vegetable Risotto

Dessert

Tiramisu

or

Apple Pie A La Mode

\$45.00 + 3% BBO per person
Includes 2 glasses of Champagne
Each Lady will receive a Rose



Red Sail Sports Recognized its Employees



ORANJESTAD - It is our pleasure to share with you that recently two distinguished employees at Red Sail Sports celebrated their service anniversaries.

Lizzah Franjea Leest, Retail Logistics Coordinator, entered our services on December 23, 1998 as a Retail Sales Associate in our store in the Hyatt Resort. On October 8, 2002, Lizzah was promoted to Store Supervisor and when

an opportunity presented itself in September 2005 to become retail assistant manager she gracefully accepted this new challenge. Lizzah is now in charge of all the logistics in the distribution center. During her past 10 years, she was nominated and elected numerous times as Employee of the Month and even became Employee of the Year in 2003. Lizzah is always ready to assist anyone and won't

hesitate to sit in for another colleague or work in any retail stores. It goes without saying that management of RSS Aruba is grateful to having her on board because of her commitment, loyalty and trustworthiness. She gets along great with everyone because of her positive attitude in any given situation but more so because she possesses a great personality. We extend our congratulations to her for reaching such a milestone and we do hope that she continues with us for many more years.

Peter de Hoop, Managing Director, also celebrated his 10th service anniversary at RSS on January 1, 2009. When he took over on January 1, 1999, Peter, an individual with a huge vision, immediately started with reorganizing the structure within RSS Aruba. He met major accomplishments and if we take into consideration that when he started there were two dive boats versus three today and a fleet of two catamarans that extended to four during the course of the years. Furthermore, watersports activities were also extended in providing quality products to the guests with safety always in the first place. In the retail business also major improvements were made and due to his drive he increased RSS Retail Stores to 9 outlets during the past 10 years. However, in order to succeed in any undertaking, an intensive planning is in its place and as such, he also attracted professionals to his side so that together they carry his vision towards a continuous success in the company of RSS Aruba. Peter, on behalf of all the 77 employees we thank you for being our leader in this company and do hope that you continue with the same perseverance for many 10 more. During a succulent lunch in Chino-Latino on February 10, 2009, in the company of Erlinda Leysner, H.R. Manager and Tep v/d Heuvel, Retail Manager, Lizzah Leest and Peter de Hoop were recognized for their valuable contribution to RSS Aruba during the past ten years and both received a memorable plaque and a nice monetary envelope. □



CRYSTAL & SEAPORT CASINOS

Valentine's Day

is very romantic at Crystal & Seaport Casinos

Saturday February 14th from 6pm till 9pm

2xPoints!

when playing with "The Card"
on Valentine's Day at both casinos
between 6pm & 9pm

Special Gift!

for the first 100 players
to bring this ad between 6pm & 9pm
at the Player's Center



For more information, please call 523-6318 or 523-6437

Jerrold & Beth Segall Honored at Playa Linda Resort



of Goodwill for the Island of Aruba after coming to the Island for 20 years and also celebrate their 50 anniversary on the Island Pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes together with Jerrold & Beth and also Yvette from Playa Linda Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently at Playa Linda resort, Aruba vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at Playa Linda Resort . Jerrold & Beth Segall were honored as an Ambassador



ouch!

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS HURTS EVERYBODY.

HOW?

LOVE YOUR STEAK!

RENAISSANCE RESORT

HAVANA Dance

The New 2009 Production of the Let's Go Latin!

The elegant Crystal Theater sparkles with all the excitement of Las Vegas as the magnificent **HAVANA Dance** takes the stage. A thrilling mix of Latin/Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy modern/traditional Cuban dance.

HAVANA Dance is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean featuring true Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana. Don't miss it!

Show time: Tuesday - Saturday at 9pm
Ticket Price: \$49 / Children under 12 pay \$25
Dinner Show package at L.G. Smith's Steak and Chop House \$89

For reservations and information, please call 583-6000 ext. 6115 (between 9am till 5pm) after 5pm please call 583-6000 ext. 6357
Tickets available at concierge desks and the box office at the Renaissance Resort.

15% discount

Bring this ad at the Box-Office of the CRYSTAL Theater at the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino and get 15% discount. Box-office open from 02pm till 09pm from Monday through Saturday.

The hottest Cuban show ticket on the island!

SHOW DATES: TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

HAVANA DANCE DINNER & SHOW PACKAGE

\$89

LOVE YOUR STEAK!

L.G. SMITH'S STEAK & CHOP HOUSE

www.lgsmiths.com

L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House offers mouthwatering American steak house fare and an extensive international wine list. Enjoy Aruba's premiere location for superb dining in a stylish décor.

GREAT SHOW, GREAT STEAKS, GREAT SERVICE, GREAT PRICES

Open daily from 5:30pm until 11pm
Recommended seatings 5:30pm - 6pm - 6:30pm
For reservations call 523-6195
Located next to the Crystal Casino

*Price includes show ticket and 3-course dinner show menu



NOBUSHI

Celebrate St. Valentine's Day & SUSHI Lovers


NOW Sushi & Asian Cuisine
Celebrate St. Valentine's Day and Sushi Lovers. Receive a "FREE" Ticket for Morgan's Island "Aqua Park".

For reservations: 586 2211 cell 592 4021 open:
Saturday 14 february
12:m - 12:m

NOBUSHI at the Paseo Herencia Mall accross from the Holiday INN.



Free Ticket for Morgan's Island Aqua Park



JOLLY Pirates

SAIL, SNORKEL, SWIM & SWING!
DAILY 9:30-2pm \$55pp
Visit 3 Great sites with BBQ, Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!
AFTERNOON SNORKEL
DAILY 3-6pm only \$33pp
Shorter version of am cruise
Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!
SUNSET SAIL
Mon & Fri 5-7pm only \$27pp
Open Bar included

Call 586 8107 or 592 7858



\$10 off

Valid only with direct tel. reservation - cannot be combined with other offers. Save \$10 per coupon/per couple for morning cruises. Save \$5 per coupon/per couple for afternoon cruises.

It doesn't get more romantic than this...

Take your Sweetheart Valentine's Dinner Sail

Red Sail Sports is delighted to invite you to enjoy an extremely romantic Valentine's Dinner Sail on one of their luxurious catamarans. Celebrate with the one you love and enjoy candlelight, Champagne, a deluxe dinner buffet, dazzling views, and live steeldrum music echoing across Aruba's turquoise waters. Wine and dine your Valentine in a way they'll never forget.

The buffet-style dinner has a Caribbean theme and features salads, grouper, steak, and local specialties such as papaya stoba. Red and white wine is served along with an open bar which offers a variety of tropical cocktails.

Live steeldrum music and a red rose for every couple complete this magical evening. This sail is so special, it's a Valentine's gift in itself.

The 3-hour sail with open bar, Caribbean buffet-style dinner and live steeldrum music is priced at \$79 per person. Sure to be the highlight of your Aruba holiday, this romantic Dinner Sail will take place on Saturday, February 14th from 6 to 9 pm. But if you cannot wait for Valentine's Day to take your partner on a catamaran sail, Red Sail Sports offers Snorkel, Sunset and Dinner Sails daily.



Valentine Dinner Sail

*Live Steeldrum Music
Caribbean Buffet Dinner
Romantic Atmosphere*

*Saturday February 14
from 6 to 9 pm
\$79 per person
includes Open Bar and
Caribbean Buffet Dinner*

*For Reservations
Call 586-1603*

red sail sports.
ARUBA

KOOL RUNNINGS

Taste of the Caribbean, Food & Refreshments

From Friday Night until Sunday

48 hours of VALENTINE'S



Join us for **Recession Valentine's Weekend.**
Friday Until All Day Sunday Enjoy A **Recession Valentines' Weekend**, Special **Happy Hour for Three Days** which includes **Two-For-One Red Stripe** from 5 Pm Till 7pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening. All Three Evenings **Valentine's Couples**

will receive a Free Bottle of wine and a gift from Jamaica for all of the women.
Red Stripe Beer is A 12 Oz Beer and Guinness is Two For One

Kool Runnings is The Home Of Red Stripe & Guinness



DON'T JUST LIVE LIVE RED

BE MY VALENTINE

Ventanas del Mar



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH



For reservations Call us: 586 7800 • Limited seating

The trendiest coffees on Aruba

Segafredo at South Beach Centre

PALM BEACH – Recently Segafredo very quietly opened its doors in the new South Beach Mall, right across from the High Rise Hotels. They have been a raving succes from day one, not a surprise to anyone as Segafredo is one of the world's trendiest and recognized coffee brands.

Segafredo is opened from 6AM for the early starters until midnight. You'll find the Grand Opening Specials below, they are made just for you! They will serve you the best Segafredo coffees during the morning to get you going, during lunch you will find fresh panini sandwiches, pizza, lasagna and salads. Night time at Segafredo's promises special coffees, martini's, longdrinks and of course beer on one of the trendiest locations on the island. General Manager Maarten Alberts has trained his staff to utter perfection on how to make the best coffees, and it shows. Served by the most courteous staff on the island, the morning espressos and cappuchinos are put in front of you with every attention to detail. We invite you to start your day in the best way possible; at Segafredo.





Grand Opening Specials

BUY ANY BREAKFAST GET ONE FREE
HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY 6pm - 8pm
BUY ANY SPECIAL COFFEE GET ONE FREE



Located at the South Beach Mall in Palm Beach #55 | Open Daily from 6am to 10pm | Tel: 743-8897 • 586-7483

Appetizers

Tuna & Lump Crab Parfait • US\$12.50

Timbale of sashimi tuna tar and lump crab served with citrus curry ailoli and grilled pineapple mango salsa or

Rich Seafood Bouillabaisse • US\$ 9.50

Rich soup made with assorted seafood served with shrimps, saffron cognac cream, Rouille and garlic croutons

Sherbet

Refreshing passion fruits sherbet served Grand Marnier champagne drizzle

Entrees

Chilean Sea Bass Fillet & Jumbo Scallops • US\$ 36.00

Pan seared served with fresh laghitarra pasta and brown butter citrus sauce or

Surf & Turf • US\$ 42.50

Beef Tournedos, Garlic sautéed rock lobster tail and tiger prawns served with truffled veal sauce

Dessert

Strawberry Panna cotta • US\$ 7.50

Fresh strawberries vanilla flan, served with chocolate balsamic syrup, caramelized walnuts and lemon grass vanilla sauce

Price for the Whole Menu P/P: \$55.00

Plus 15% service charge • Add 3% Local Tax

A complimentary Rose and Kir Royale for all ladies.

Driftwood Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant offers diners the ultimate dining experience in freshly line caught fish.

ORANJESTAD - Why should seafood enthusiast and other diners alike go to Driftwood Restaurant? Well let's start by mentioning that their fish is caught daily by the owner himself and prepared by a local chef. "Just like mama makes it." The food is fresh, the staff is friendly, and the place is definitely buzzing. If you want to catch your own fresh fish and can't stay for a sit-down dinner, enjoy their Charter Fishing trip and have them prepare it for you. Trust me; it doesn't get any fresher than this: From pier to plate as their motto says.



Fried fish would be the common choice, but you can get your entrée broiled, grilled or baked. However you can indulge in the more guilty options for lobster, Alaskan king crab legs, grouper, shrimp, Black Angus tenderloin and so forth. Ease your

conscience and add a salad or go all out and try their delicious crab cakes, fish soup, garlic escargots, lobster crepe and coconut shrimps before your hearty entrée.



While seafood stars at Driftwood, fish-phobic diners will not go hungry. They have a staggeringly vast menu, which doesn't miss much of anything, from authentic Aruban seafood, lobster, Alaskan king crab legs to chicken, lamb or steaks.

Q: Why do we serve only fresh line caught fish?

A: How fresh would you be after a net caught fish frozen import from Asia?



Driftwood restaurant has a long tradition of serving the best seafood and steaks for over 20 years!

Don't forget to make this a must dine at restaurant while on vacation, you are sure to indulge in some great tasty seafood.



Restaurant information and reservation: open daily (closed on Tuesdays) from 5pm-10:30pm. Tel. 583-2515. Located at Klipstraat 12 in the heart of downtown Oranjestad, within driving distance from the resorts. □



FRESH FISH TONIGHT?
...AT DRIFTWOOD RESTAURANT
T. (297) 583-2515

"Aruhiba" Aruba's homemade cigar



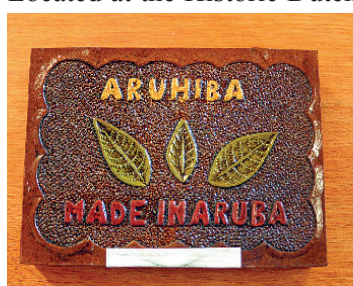
ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called 'Aruhiba'. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of "Aruhiba" cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi's dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo 'Aruhiba' and 'Made in Aruba'. Petrochi considers 'Aruhiba' a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00. Located at the Historic Dutch



Windmill from 9am to 8pm. Open on Sunday. And also at Tamarijn: open 9am - 5pm and Sunday from 9am to 1pm. The only place to get Aruhiba and all major credit cards accepted. We have homemade and best premium Cuban Cigars. All cigars are legal through costum. Call 586-7833 or 593-6177. Open for tour operators and we have a large parking space. Come and see Mr. Petrochi rolling the cigars everyday.



Dutch extradite five Somali pirates

by Martine Pauwels

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AFP) – Five suspected Somali pirates intercepted in the Gulf of Aden as they attacked a Dutch cargo ship last month were extradited Tuesday to the Netherlands, a prosecution spokesman said. The five men, held aboard a Danish naval vessel since the January 2 incident, were flown to the Netherlands on a military plane from the Gulf state of Bahrain, prosecution spokesman Wim de Bruin told AFP.

“They arrived this afternoon in Eindhoven and will be brought before a magistrate in Rotterdam tomorrow,” who will decide whether to remand them in custody for a further two weeks, he added.

The men risk up to nine years in jail if found guilty, with the leader of the group facing a possible 12-year sentence.

Their high-speed powerboat was intercepted by a participating Danish frigate in the first days of a multinational anti-piracy task force in the Gulf of Aden. Prosecutors say the men were preparing to board a Dutch Antilles cargo ship, the Samanyulo.

Arrest warrants were issued for the men on January 21 while they were being held aboard the frigate, the Absalon.

“Investigators have taken statements from those on board the attacked cargo vessel,” the prosecutor’s office said in a statement.

De Bruin said it was the Netherlands’ first judicial case against Somali pirates.

France jailed 12 Somalis last year after French commandos swooped on the hijackers of two luxury yachts in the same shipping lane.

Pirates attacked more than 130 merchant ships in the Gulf of Aden last year, an increase of more than 200 percent on 2007, according to the International Maritime Bureau which tracks piracy and shipping security issues.

Heavily armed pirates operate high-powered speedboats and sometimes hold ships for weeks before releasing them for large ransoms paid by governments or shipowners.

More than 150 suspected

pirates have been arrested by naval patrols in the Gulf in 2008, the International Maritime Organization, another marine safety group, was told at a conference in Djibouti in January.

Nineteen of the suspects were handed over to European states whose ships were attacked, while 85 others were taken into custody by the semi-autonomous Somali region of Puntland,

or by Yemen, according to a Djibouti document presented to the conference. □

A French helicopter shadows a Dutch freight-carrying ship in January 2009 in the Gulf of Aden. Five suspected Somali pirates intercepted in the Gulf of Aden as they attacked a Dutch cargo ship last month were extradited Tuesday to the Netherlands, a prosecution spokesman said.

(AFP/File/Stephane de Sakutin)



Love your Valentine
the way you love your steak
(well, not exactly the same way)

Valentine's Menu

Cherish the Heart

Cream of Asparagus
with crisp plantain chips

Roses are Red

Yellow Fin Tuna
Carpaccio served with
mixed baby greens,
shaved Parmesan
cheese and a soy,
ginger-honey dressing

A Secret Liaison

Grilled Striploin (4oz.)
and Seafood Thermidor
served with Rice Pilaf
and Creamed Spinach

Such a Lovely Couple

Chocolate and Grand
Marnier Mousse
topped with Passion
Fruit cream

Coffee or tea

\$54^{.00}

plus 15% service charge

This Saturday, February 14th
celebrate Valentine's Day
at L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House
with a fabulous romantic dinner

L.G. SMITH'S

STEAK & CHOP HOUSE

The savoring starts here!

L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House was voted the number 1 steakhouse in Aruba.

Open from 5:30 p.m. till 11 p.m. Located next to Crystal Casino.

For reservations call 523-6195 or visit www.lgsmiths.com

The Pink Panther 2



February 6th, 2009 (wide)
MPAA Rating:
 PG for some suggestive humor, brief mild language and action.
Distributors:
 Sony Pictures Releasing
Production Co.:
 Robert Simonds Company
Studios:
 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc. (MGM), Columbia TriStar Motion Picture Group
U.S. Box Office:
 \$11,588,150
Produced in:
 United States

When legendary treasures from around the world are stolen, including the priceless Pink Panther Diamond, Chief Inspector Dreyfus is forced to assign Inspector Clouseau to a team of international detectives and experts charged with catching the thief and retrieving the stolen artifacts.

Production Status:
 Released
Genres:
 Comedy, Thriller and Sequel
Running Time:
 1 hr. 32 min.
Release Date:

Friday the 13th



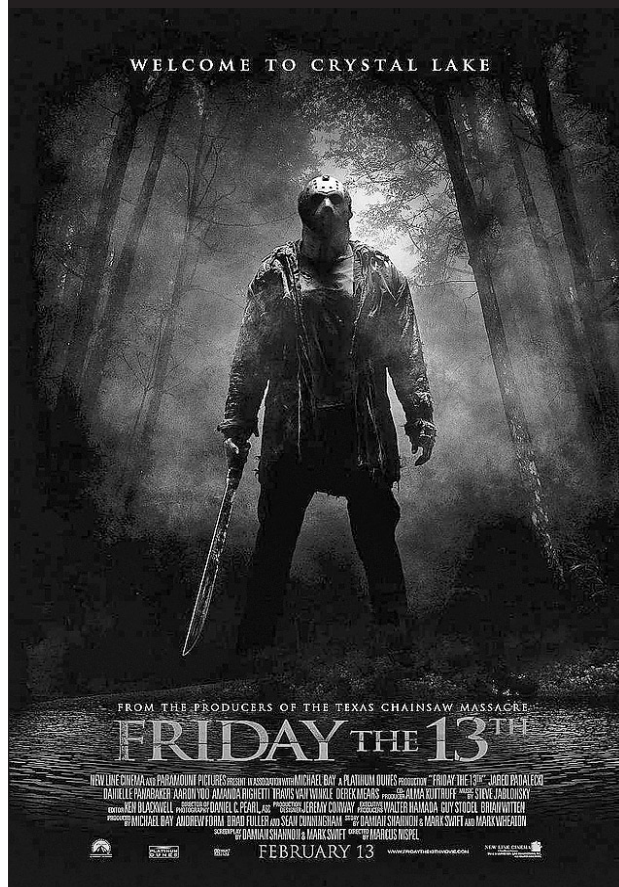
Production Status:
 In Production/Awaiting Release
Genres:
 Suspense/Horror and Remake
Running Time:
 1 hr. 35 min.
Release Date:
 February 13th, 2009 (wide)
MPAA Rating:
 R for strong bloody violence, some graphic sexual content, language and drug material.
Distributors:
 Warner Bros. Pictures Distribution
Production Co.:
 Platinum Dunes, MTV Films
Studios:
 New Line Cinema, Paramount Pictures
Filming Locations:
 Austin, Texas USA
Produced in:
 United States
 Searching for his missing sister, Clay Miller heads up to the eerie woods of legendary Crystal Lake, where he stumbles on the creaky remains of rotting old cabins behind moss-covered trees. And that's not the only thing lying in wait under the brush. Against the advice of police and cautions from the locals,

Clay pursues what few leads he has in the search for his missing sister, Whitney, with the help of Jenna, a young woman he meets among a group of college kids up for an all-thrills weekend. But they are all about to find much more than they bargained for. Little do they know, they've entered the domain of one of the most terrifying specters in American film history -- the infamous killer who haunts Crystal Lake, armed with a razor-sharp machete... Jason Voorhees. □



NEW RELEASES

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SCHEDULE FOR WEEK 5 FEBRUARY 12 - FEBRUARY 18

*matinee: saturday and sunday | late show: friday and saturday

AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD

PG	THE PINK PANTHER 2				NEW
	daily: 4:25	6:30	8:30	10:35	
	matinee: 12:20	2:20	late show: 12:35		
R	ROLE MODEL				
	daily: 4:10	6:15	8:20	10:25	
	matinee: 12:00	2:10	late show: 12:30		
PG-13	HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU				
	daily: 4:00	6:40	9:15		
	matinee: 1:20		late show: 11:55		
R	CHANGELING				
	daily: 6:30		9:20		
	matinee: 11:55		late show: 12:10		
PG-13	YES MAN				
	daily: 4:20				
	matinee: 11:55	2:05	late show:		
PG	HOTEL FOR DOGS				
	daily: 3:4	5:50	8:00	10:10	
	matinee: 1:30		late show: 12:20		
PG-13	TAKEN				
	daily: 4:05	6:05	8:05	10:05	
	matinee: 11:55	2:00	late show: 12:00		

AT PASEO HERENCIA

R	FRIDAY THE 13TH				NEW
	daily: 5:40	7:55	10:00		
	matinee: 1:20	3:30	late show: 12:05		
PG	THE PINK PANTHER 2				NEW
	daily: 4:05	6:05	8:10	10:15	
	matinee: 12:00	2:05	late show: 12:25		
R	ROLE MODELS				
	daily: 4:00	6:10	8:15	10:20	
	matinee: 11:55	1:55	late show: 12:40		
PG-13	YES MAN				
	daily: 8:00	10:10			
	matinee: 12:20				
PG	HOTEL FOR DOGS				
	daily: 3:35	5:50			
	matinee: 1:20		late show:		
R	UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS				
	daily: 4:20	6:20	8:30	10:25	
	matinee: 12:15	2:20	late show: 12:30		
PG-13	HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU				
	daily: 6:30	9:10			
	matinee: 1:15	3:55	late show: 11:50		
DRIVE-IN February 12 - February 15					
R	NOTORIOUS				
	Thursday: 8:00	Friday: 8:00 & 10:30			
R	BEDTIME STORIES				
	Saturday: 8:00 & 10:30	Sunday: 8:00			

Manning: Caribbean will benefit from summit

Kristy Ramnarine

Prime Minister Patrick Manning said that the entire Caribbean region will benefit from this country's decision to host the Fifth Summit of the Americas in April.

He made the statement while delivering the feature address at the opening ceremony of the Operations Planning and Coordinating Staff Table Top Exercise in preparation for the Fifth Summit of the Americas. The two-day workshop is taking place at the Hilton Trinidad in Port of Spain.

"It will cost Trinidad and Tobago a considerable amount of money to host this Summit of the Americas and at a time when the world economic situation has changed and changed dramatically and where small Caribbean countries are finding themselves in very difficult circumstances," Manning admitted.

"Where, in fact all of us, has had to have a second look at our budgets and where for the first time in 15 years Trinidad and Tobago, more than 15 years, has had to go into deficit financing.

"But we believe that it is worth it. We believe my dear friends as we host the Fifth Summit of the Americas, we are hosting a world event and we recognise that world attention would focus not just on us in Trinidad and Tobago but to the extent that we have

been advancing this event as a Caricom effort; international focus will be focused on the Caribbean.

"It will be focused on the Caribbean at a time when Caribbean territories themselves are trying to attract world attention, are trying in particular to attract investments into their own countries - investments that could assist in economic activity, assist in earning of revenues and

assist in the Governments themselves recurring items of expenditure that will lead to an improvement and an upward mobility of the populations of these countries. That is very important for us."

Meanwhile, Acting Commissioner of Police, James Philbert, gave the assurance that the Police Service was prepared to respond to the challenge of the upcoming Summit. □



Love Is In The Air at Renaissance Marketplace

Visit one of the bars or restaurant at the Renaissance Marketplace on February 13th, and receive a chocolate from Taste of Belgium

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Live entertainment by Delbert Bernabela from 7 -9 pm and love songs on stage from 7 - 10 pm



RENAISSANCE
MARKETPLACE





By: Dr. Carlos Viana

You might be surprised that Valentine's Day isn't just an innocent holiday developed to help business sell flowers, chocolates, balloons adorned with pictures of cuddly bears or sexy lingerie. The true origin of Valentine's Day has its roots in the pagan worship of Baal, the sun god. In ancient Babylon Baal worship included many people participating in sacred sexual orgies.

Baal was often associated with the goddess Astoreth; the goddess of sexual love, motherhood and fertility. Prostitution as a religious rite in the service of this goddess under various names is widely confirmed by cultural anthropologists. Beyond a fertility rite here we see a great example of a ritual concerned with productivity including acts of sympathetic magic, such as burning fires (symbolizing the sun) and

Cupid's Arrow Point

scattering the reproductive organs of animals on the fields, displays of phallic symbols, and ritual prostitution.

The worship of Baal went on to other cultures; or was the custom there already? To the Greeks he was Eros, meaning sexual desire; to the Romans he was Cupid, from cupido, meaning desire. Both Greeks and Romans portrayed Eros/Cupid as a winged boy armed with bows and arrows. The Roman legend of Cupid and Psyche, recorded by Apuleius, is the best-known of many stories that surround this armed, unscrupulous boy. Pierced in your heart with Cupid's arrow will make you fall in love with whom you are with at the time. Valentine's Day gifts are offerings to stimulate sympathetic magic to get Cupid to shoot his arrow into the heart of the person you desire.

As everyone knows, love is supposed to conquer all. After much emotional drama, reflected in many romance novels, movies, and love songs; Cupid finally marries Psyche, who had been wandering the earth, looking for Cupid in vain. Like any modern retelling, they lived happily ever after, giving birth to a daughter whose name was Pleasure; of course.

Do you believe in love at first sight? This can be easily explained as having your heart pierced by Cupid's arrow. Unfortunately, Cupid is an armed, unscrupulous boy, who will shoot the arrow again through your adolescent love attitude. This helps explain why more than three-quarters of our marriages end in divorce.

Today what is hoped for is that Valentine's Day can be the perfect opportunity to ignite the romance in your love relationship. It's a great time for men to step outside our usual routine and develop a little passion. With a little planning, creativity, and money, merchandisers are hoping that you really want to light a fire. Besides the chocolate & flowers, do you know there are natural

supplements that can help juice up the libido?

There are people who hate Valentine's Day. These people believe that unless you are in a very good relationship it's no fun. These people and many others are missing the main point. The target today for Cupid's arrows should be on how we love. The deepest kind of maturity is seen in how we love and how we shoot our arrows. You see, the real Cupid is yourself, just as you are your best doctor.

The first arrow should be the arrow of truth. Truth of self is what we think about ourselves and what we want and what we are doing in our relationship. Why are you engaging in sex? Are you there to gain another "conquest" or as a physical expression to a person you want to stay with. The four pillars or reasons relationships fail are: criticism, contempt, defensiveness and shutting down emotionally and refusing to respond. I, like 81% of men am guilty at times of shutting down emotionally with my spouse.

The second arrow is transformation where we change our behavior. New behavior that helps our relationships endure includes the following three points. Making time for conversations where you find out what your partner has experienced lately. Express fondness, appreciation, and admiration for your partner often. Acknowledge your partners interests, even in small moments. Interestingly, the failing points are all about "me" while the loving points are all about "you".

The third arrow is love. Women want the same thing out of relationships as emotionally matured men do; they just go about trying to get it in different ways. Being mature with yourself and your relationship means wanting to work at you relationship. With emotional maturity we thrive physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We love God, our marriage partner, our parents, our friends, and even our enemies. And in our

relationships we get friendship, with its implicit values of patience, understanding, compassion, and cooperation, the real Cupid's arrows.

Get The Point! As your physician I can tell you that it is love that cures you, both the ones of you who give it and the ones of us who receive it. The best and most beautiful thing in the world cannot be seen, or touched, but is felt in the heart. Spread love everywhere you go: first of all in your own heart. Love is a wonderful thing. You never have to take it away from one person to give it to another. There's always more than enough to go around. Are you having some emotional blocks that a greeting card isn't enough to get you through? Acupuncture, has some lovely treatments to help open the chakra's or "blocks" helping you find balance and harmony in yourself, leaving you open for healthy loving relationships. Happy Valentine's Day.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

HEALTH FOR TODAY'S WORLD: 101 Great Ways to Improve YOUR HEALTH, 101 Expert tips to Great Health, Including a chapter by Carlos M. Viana, Aruba's Barefoot Doctor. Available @ Viana Center, Hotel Gift Shops & All Bookstores. □

KNOWLEDGE

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Josef Munzenhofer Jr. celebrates 11 birthday



NOORD – On Monday February 9, 2009, Josef Munzenhofer Jr. turned one year older. An intelligent child well loved by many has now reached that stage in his life where he is past the kid phase and onto a new importance in life. Josef loves the sea and snorkels every chance he has to net all sorts of fish for his father's restaurant the Buccaneer. His favorite T.V. show is Discovery where he is amazed at all the animal life and loves all animals in general. As a fifth grader at Washington school he is doing

his best at getting good grades. He told his mom to make a double batch of Olie Bollen to bring to his classmates on his special day. On Sunday the family went to Gianni's to celebrate the special occasion with Uncle Tom and good friends Giovanni Di Vecchia and family. Birthday wishes from afar from Nonna Maria, godparents Maria & Nunzio Tallutto and family, Aunt Jackie and family, Aunt Rosa and family, Aunt Lorraine and family, Aunt Antonella & family. His 15 cousins from Michigan wish they were here



to celebrate and send their love. Aruba Birthday blessings from parents Josef & Angela Munzenhofer, Nanny, Luz Mila Herrera, Grandpa Josef and Oma Rosa, Grandma Baby, Aunt Heidi and Uncle Phillip, Uncle Carlito & Aunt Xochi. May God Bless you and keep you in good health, May this year be filled with happiness and lots of love. ☐



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The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a gar-

den full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to

splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

For more information or to make reservations, please call 586-4686. ☐



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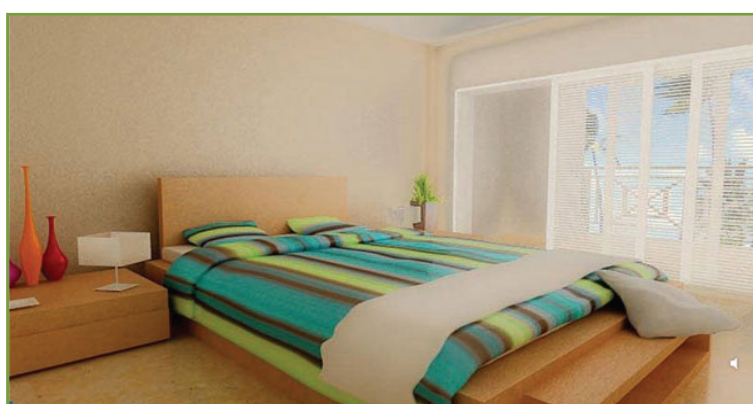


fect view of the ocean which include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, fancy

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Peanut Co. owner refuses to testify to Congress

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR and BRETT J. BLACKLEDGE

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — See the jar, the congressman challenged Stewart Parnell, holding up a container of the peanut seller's products and asking if he'd dare eat them. Parnell pleaded the Fifth.

The owner of the peanut company at the heart of the massive salmonella recall refused to answer the lawmaker's questions — or any others — Wednesday about the bacteria-tainted products he defiantly told employees to ship to some 50 manufacturers of cookies, crackers and ice cream.

"Turn them loose," Parnell had told his plant manager in an internal e-mail disclosed at the House hearing. The e-mail referred to products that once were deemed contaminated but were cleared in a second test last year.

Summoned by congressional subpoena, the owner of Peanut Corp. of America repeatedly invoked his right not to incriminate himself at the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee hearing on the salmonella outbreak that has sickened some 600 people, may be linked to nine deaths — the latest reported in Ohio on Wednesday — and resulted in one of the largest product recalls of more than 1,900 items.

Parnell sat stiffly, his hands folded in his lap at the witness table, as Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., held up a clear jar of his company's products wrapped in crime-scene tape and asked if he would eat them.

"Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, on advice of my counsel, I respectfully decline to answer your questions based on the protections afforded me under the U.S. Constitution," Parnell responded.

After he repeated the statement several times, lawmakers dismissed him from the hearing.

Shortly after Parnell's appearance, a lab tester told the panel that the company discovered salmonella at its Blakely, Ga., plant as far back as 2006. Food and Drug Administration officials told lawmakers more federal inspections could have helped prevent the outbreak.

"We appear to have a total systemic breakdown," said Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich., chairman of the committee's investigations subcommittee. Cookies, candy, crackers, granola bars and other products made with contaminated peanuts have been shipped to schools, stores and nursing homes, prompting the massive recall. The government raided the company's Georgia plant on Monday, and Peanut Corp. closed its Plainview, Texas, facility.

A federal criminal investigation is under way. The House panel released e-mails obtained by its investigators showing Parnell ordered products identified with salmonella to be shipped and quoting his complaints that tests discovering the contaminated food were "costing us huge \$\$\$\$\$\$."

In mid-January, after the national outbreak was tied to his company, Parnell told Food and Drug Administration officials that he and his company "desperately at least need to turn the raw peanuts on our floor into money."

In a separate message to his employees, Parnell insisted that the outbreak did not start at his plant, calling that a misunderstanding by the media and public health officials. "No salmonella has been found anywhere else in our products, or in our plants, or in any unopened containers of our product," he said in a Jan. 12 e-mail.

In another exchange, Parnell complained to a worker after they notified him that salmonella had been found in more products.

Continued on Next Page

Key lawmakers reach deal on \$789B stimulus bill



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev., center, accompanied by Senators, speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009. From second from left are, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, Reid, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., and Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa.

Associated Press

By DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Moving with lightning speed, key members of the Senate announced agreement Wednesday on a \$790 billion stimulus bill to create millions of jobs, and said President Barack Obama could sign the bill within days. But in a bewildering — if temporary — turn of events, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the White House withheld immediate expressions of support. A formal meeting of congressional bargainers who would need to ratify any deal was delayed.

Continued on Page B4



Attacks on Afghan government buildings kill 20

By AMIR SHAH and RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press Writers

KABUL — Taliban gunmen wearing suicide vests attacked three Afghan government buildings Wednesday in a coordinated assault that killed 20 people in the heart of Kabul just ahead of a planned visit from the new U.S. envoy to the region.

The attacks in a city dense with barricades and armed guards underscored the difficulty of fending off the Taliban even with abundant troops and weaponry as the U.S. beefs up its presence.

Continued on Page B6



Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., left, and Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine talk to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Feb. 6, 2009, as they wait for an elevator after a meeting with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev. on the economic stimulus legislation.

PEANUT CO.

Continued from Page B1

"I go thru this about once a week," he wrote in a June 2008 e-mail. "I will hold my breath again."

Last year, when a final lab test found salmonella, Parnell

expressed concern about the cost and delays in moving his products.

"We need to discuss this," he wrote in an Oct. 6 e-mail to Sammy Lightsey, his plant manager. "The time lapse, beside the cost is costing

us huge \$\$\$\$\$ and causing obviously a huge lapse in time from the time we pick up peanuts until the time we can invoice."

Lightsey also invoked his right not to testify when he appeared alongside Parnell

before the subcommittee.

"Their behavior is criminal, in my opinion. I want to see jail time," said Jeffrey Almer, whose 72-year-old mother died Dec. 21 in Minnesota of salmonella poisoning after eating Peanut Corp.'s peanut butter. Almer and other relatives of victims urged lawmakers to approve mandatory product recalls and improve public notice about contaminated food.

Darlene Cowart of JLA USA testing service said the company contacted her in November 2006 to help control salmonella discovered in the plant.

Cowart said she made one visit to the plant at the company's request and pointed out problems with peanut roasting and storage of peanuts that could have led to the salmonella. She testified that Peanut Corp. officials said they believed the salmonella came from organic Chinese peanuts. An FDA inspection report had placed the earliest presence of salmonella in June 2007, the first of a dozen

times the company received private lab results identifying the bacteria in its products.

Cowart said she believed Peanut Corp. stopped using her company for lab tests because it identified salmonella too many times.

The company's internal records show it "was more concerned with its bottom line than the safety of its customers," said committee Chairman Henry Waxman, D-Calif.

Charles Deibel, president of Deibel Laboratories Inc., said his company was among those that tested Peanut Corp. products and notified the Georgia plant that salmonella was found. Peanut Corp. sold the products anyway, according to an FDA inspection report.

"What is virtually unheard of is for an entity to disregard those results and place potentially contaminated products into the stream of commerce," Deibel said.

Deibel said he hopes the crisis leads to a greater role for FDA in overseeing food safety and providing more guidance to food makers. □



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Pa. judges accused of jailing kids for cash

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM and MARYCLAIRE DALE

Associated Press Writers

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. — For years, the juvenile court system in Wilkes-Barre operated like a conveyor belt: Youngsters were brought before judges without a lawyer, given hearings that lasted only a minute or two, and then sent off to juvenile prison for months for minor offenses.

The explanation, prosecutors say, was corruption on the bench.

In one of the most shocking cases of courtroom graft on record, two Pennsylvania judges have been charged with taking millions of dollars in kickbacks to send teenagers to two privately run youth detention centers.

“I’ve never encountered, and I don’t think that we will in our lifetimes, a case where literally thousands of kids’ lives were just tossed aside in order for a couple of judges to make some money,” said Marsha Levick, an attorney with the Philadelphia-based Juvenile Law Center, which is representing hundreds of youths sentenced in Wilkes-Barre.

Prosecutors say Luzerne County Judges Mark Ciavarella and Michael Conahan took \$2.6 million in payoffs to put juvenile offenders in lockups run by PA Child Care LLC and a sister company, Western PA Child Care LLC. The judges were charged on Jan. 26 and removed from the bench by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court shortly afterward.

No company officials have been charged, but the investigation is still going on.

The high court, meanwhile, is looking into whether hundreds or even thousands of sentences should be overturned and the juveniles’ records expunged. Among the offenders were teenagers who were locked up for months for stealing loose change from cars, writing a prank note and possessing drug paraphernalia. Many had never been in trouble before. Some were imprisoned even after probation officers recommended against it.

Many appeared without lawyers, despite the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark 1967 ruling that children have a constitutional right to counsel.

The judges are scheduled to plead guilty to fraud Thursday in federal court. Their plea agreements call for sentences of more than seven years behind bars.

Ciavarella, 58, who presided over Luzerne County’s juvenile court for 12 years, acknowledged last week in a letter to his former

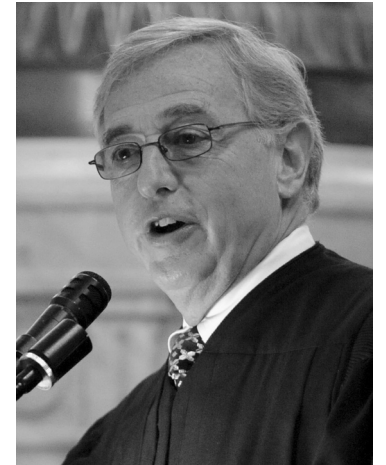
colleagues, “I have disgraced my judgeship. My actions have destroyed everything I worked to accomplish and I have only myself to blame.” Ciavarella, though, has denied he got kickbacks for sending youths to prison.

Conahan, 56, has remained silent about the case. Many Pennsylvania counties contract with privately run juvenile detention centers, paying them either a fixed overall fee or a certain amount per youth, per day.

In Luzerne County, prosecutors say, Conahan shut down the county-run juvenile prison in 2002 and helped the two companies secure rich contracts worth tens of millions of dollars, at least some of that dependent on how many juveniles were locked up.

One of the contracts — a 20-year agreement with PA Child Care worth an estimated \$58 million — was later canceled by the county as exorbitant.

The judges are accused of



In this Feb. 8, 2001 file photo, Luzerne County Judge Michael T. Conahan, left, and Luzerne County Judge Mark Ciavarella, are seen. The two Pennsylvania judges are scheduled to plead guilty in federal court Thursday Feb. 12, 2009, to fraud charges accusing them of taking millions of dollars in kickbacks in return for placing juvenile offenders into certain detention facilities.

Associated Press

taking payoffs between 2003 and 2006.

Robert J. Powell co-owned PA Child Care and Western PA Child Care until June. His attorney, Mark Sheppard, said his client was the victim of an extortion scheme.

“Bob Powell never solicited a nickel from these judges and really was a victim of their demands,” he said. “These judges made it very plain to Mr. Powell that he was going to be required to pay certain monies.” For years, youth advocacy groups complained that Ciavarella was ridiculously harsh and ran roughshod over

youngsters’ constitutional rights. Ciavarella sent a quarter of his juvenile defendants to detention centers from 2002 to 2006, compared with a statewide rate of one in 10. The criminal charges confirmed the advocacy groups’ worst suspicions and have called into question all the sentences he pronounced. Hillary Transue did not have an attorney, nor was she told of her right to one, when she appeared in Ciavarella’s courtroom in 2007 for building a MySpace page that lampooned her assistant principal. □

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From left, Goldman Sachs & Co. Chief Executive Officer and Chairman Lloyd C. Blankfein; JPMorgan Chase & Co. Chief Executive Officer James Dimon; Bank of New York Mellon Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Robert P. Kelly; Bank of America Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ken Lewis; State Street Corporation Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ronald E. Logue; Morgan Stanley Chairman and Chief Executive Officer John Mack; Citigroup Chief Executive Officer Vikram Pandit, and Wells Fargo & Co. President and Chief Executive Officer John Spumpf, testify on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009, before the House Financial Services Committee.

STIMULUS BILL

Continued from Page B1

At a news conference in the Capitol, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said the legislation would produce 3.5 million jobs. "More than one-third of this bill is dedicated to providing tax relief for middle-class families, cutting taxes for 95 percent of American workers," he added

Associated Press at a news conference where he was joined by moderates of both parties whose votes are essential for passage. The emerging legislation includes help for victims of the recession in the form of expanded unemployment benefits, food stamps, health coverage and more, as well as billions for states that face the prospect of making deep

cuts in school aid and other programs. Another provision will mean a one-time payment of \$250 for millions of beneficiaries who receive Social Security, Supplemental Security Income and veterans pensions and disability, according to officials. The measure also preserves Obama's signature tax cut — a break for millions of lower and middle income taxpayers. Wage-earners who don't make enough to pay income taxes would get a reduction in the Social Security and Medicare taxes they pay. The president also won money for two other administration priorities — information technology in health care, and "green jobs" to make buildings more energy-efficient and reduce the nation's reliance on foreign oil. The bill "will be the beginning of the turnaround for the American economy," predicted Sen. Joseph Lieberman, the independent from Connecticut. Republicans couldn't have disagreed more. "It appears that Democrats have made a bad bill worse by reducing the tax relief for

working families in order to pay for more wasteful government spending," said Rep. John Boehner of Ohio. The events capped a frenzied 24-plus hours that began at mid-day Tuesday when the Senate approved its original version of the bill on a party-line vote of 61-37. Reid, Pelosi and White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel plunged into a series of meetings designed to produce agreement in time for Obama to sign the bill by mid-month. Pelosi was conspicuously absent from Wednesday's news conference in which members of the Senate announced the agreement. It was not clear whether she stayed away out of unhappiness or a scheduling conflict, but moments later, Reid arrived in her office, and the two talked by phone with Emanuel, according to officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. Officials had said previously that one of the final issues to be settled was money for school modernization, a priority for Pelosi as well as Obama and one on which they differed with Collins and other moderates whose votes will be essential for final Senate

approval. There also was last-minute disagreement about a House proposal that could direct education funds to schools even if a state's governor didn't approve, they said. Stocks moved higher in the moments after Reid stepped to the microphone just outside the Senate chamber. The Dow Jones industrials, which plunged 382 points on Tuesday, rose 51 points for the day. Obama has been campaigning energetically for the legislation in recent days, saying it was essential to avoid turning what is already the worst economic crisis in a generation into a catastrophe. As if to underscore the urgency, he said a few hours before the agreement was announced that machinery giant Caterpillar Inc. plans to rescind some of the 22,000 layoffs the firm recently announced — once the stimulus is signed into law. Scaling back the bill to levels lower than either the \$838 billion Senate measure or the original \$820 billion House-passed measure caused grumbles among liberal Democrats, who described the cutbacks as a concession to the moderates, particularly Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., who are under pressure from conservative Republicans to hold down spending. Working to accommodate the new, lower overall limit of the bill, negotiators effectively wiped out a Senate-passed provision for a new \$15,000 tax credit to defray the cost of buying a home, these officials said. The agreement would allow taxpayers to deduct the sales tax paid on new car purchases, but not the interest on loans for the same vehicles. School construction was a problem apart from all others. Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, told reporters that \$6 billion would be set aside, and officials said it could be spent only on repair and modernization work, a limitation designed to appease the moderates. But officials said House Democrats were holding out for as much as \$9 billion. With numerous demands for the funds in the bill, lawmakers worked to satisfy competing demands. □



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Police, divers search neighborhood for Fla. girl

SATSUMA, Fla. — Sheriff's deputies searched house-to-house Wednesday and dive teams probed the St. Johns River for a 5-year-old north Florida girl who went missing from her bed. A Florida Amber Alert was issued for Haleigh Cummings of Satsuma, about 70 miles north of Orlando. The girl was last seen Monday night when she went to bed. Investigators with the Putnam County Sheriff's Office said it was not clear if Haleigh was abducted or wandered out into the rural neighborhood that borders the river. They said the mobile home where she lives had no signs of forced entry, but a back door was open. Haleigh's father told investigators the blond girl was missing when he returned home from work around 3 a.m. Tuesday. Ronald Cummings said his girlfriend was awake and frantic that Haleigh was missing from her bed. "I just got home from work and my 5-year-old daughter is

gone," Ronald Cummings told a dispatcher on a 911 call. "If I find whoever has my daughter before you all do, I'm killing them. I don't care if I spend the rest of my life in prison." His girlfriend, Misty Croslin, said she had been sleeping next to Haleigh but when she awoke, the girl was gone. "She was sleeping right next to me," Croslin told the Palatka Daily News. "I can't believe I didn't hear anything." Officers from local, state and federal agencies and K-9 teams scoured the neighborhood. Check points were set up at the entrance to the neighborhood to search departing vehicles. Two dive teams explored the St. Johns River. Neighbors and family members also were being interviewed by detectives. The girl's disappearance has not been classified as an abduction, although detectives were treating it as one to cover all their bases, said Lt. Johnny Greenwood, a spokesman for



This recent photo released by the Putnam County Sheriff's Office shows Haleigh Cummings, 5, of Satsuma, Fla. An Amber Alert was issued on Tuesday Feb. 10, 2009, after Cummings went missing from her home Tuesday night.

Associated Press
the sheriff's office. "We're currently working both angles — did she wander off, we're working it that way with the searches," Greenwood said. "And investigators are doing interviews in case it is an abduction." □

Body dragged nearly 20 miles on NYC highways

By COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — A van traveled for nearly an hour over busy New York City roads before its driver discovered the horrific cargo it had dragged almost 20 miles: the partially scraped-away body of a man who was plowed over by an SUV just before he got caught under the van. Police said the gruesome episode was accidental and that they have no plans to charge the drivers at this time. But that did not diminish the shock of seeing a dead man hooked under a van that had just traversed some of the busiest roads in the city. Police said the driver, Manuel Lituma Sanchez, had no idea he hit the victim until the end of his trip, when a bystander told him something was dragging under his van. Investigators were working to identify the body, which was found largely intact but horribly battered. The man's heels were shorn off. His clothes and several layers of skin on his legs and buttocks were worn off. The back of his head was worn through to the scalp. A business card, Western Union receipt and a broken iPhone were found in the man's pockets, NYPD spokesman Paul Browne said. The man was first hit around 6:15 a.m. while apparently crossing against a stop light in the Corona section of Queens by the driver of a black Ford Expedition, Gustavo Acosta, who immediately called 911. When police arrived, the victim was gone and no damage was found to the SUV. Lituma Sanchez, who was about two vehicles

behind, said he had noticed cars swerving but didn't see the initial accident and assumed the drivers were simply avoiding a pothole. He drove over the victim, who was facing up, and the man's chest was hooked by a steel plate under the van known as the skid plate, used to protect the transmission and undercarriage. It's not clear whether the victim was alive at that point. "The van comes and rides right over the body and as it goes by there's no body there," Browne said. "The body was basically fish-hooked by the plate." Lituma Sanchez stopped shortly after the accident to check his car but noticed nothing and went on his way. The vehicle has a low ridge around the wheels for stepping inside, making it difficult to see under the van. Lituma Sanchez drove on the Grand Central Parkway, the Van Wyck Expressway and the Belt Parkway, winding from Queens to Brooklyn and ending up in Brighton Beach, where he works as a delivery man, Browne said. On the residential streets at a slower speed, he suspected something was wrong with his engine, and he stopped, opened the hood and checked the oil. But he did not look under the car. He got back in and drove a few more blocks before a pedestrian flagged him to say something was dragging under his 1998 Chevrolet van. Lituma Sanchez got out of his car again, looked underneath, discovered the body and called 911 from his cell phone. Police jacked up the vehicle and pulled the body from under the van. □

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Afghan intelligence chief Amrullah Saleh, left, speaks during a joint press conference with Afghanistan's Interior Minister Mohammad Hanif Atmar following suicide attack on Justice Ministry in Kabul, Afghanistan on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009. Taliban gunmen wearing suicide vests stormed the Justice Ministry and another government building in Afghanistan's capital on Wednesday, killing 19 people ahead of a planned visit by President Barack Obama's special envoy to the region.

Associated Press

AFGHAN ATTACK Continued from Page B1

The eight assailants sent three text messages to the leader of their terror cell in Pakistan before launching Wednesday's assault, said Amrullah Saleh, chief of Afghanistan's intelligence agency, underlining the links

between militants in the two countries.

Five men armed with assault rifles and grenades attacked the Justice Ministry in late morning, shooting at workers and temporarily trapping the minister and scores of others inside, witnesses said. The gunmen appeared to hold the

building for about two hours before Afghan security forces regained control about midday, according to an AP reporter on the scene.

At about the same time, two men in suicide vests blew themselves up at the ministry's correction department across town. A third assailant in a suicide vest was shot as he tried to force his way into the Education Ministry, about a half-mile from the Justice Ministry attack, said Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi.

At least 20 people were killed in the attacks and 57 wounded, said Mohammad Hanif Atmar, the interior minister. All eight attackers died, Azimi said, bringing the total death toll to 28.

Zabiullah Mujaheed, a spokesman for the Taliban, said the attacks were in response to the alleged mistreatment of Taliban prisoners in Afghan government jails.

"We have warned the Afghan government to stop torturing our prisoners," Mujaheed told

AP in a phone call from an undisclosed location. "Today we attacked Justice Ministry compounds."

Saleh, the intelligence chief, said officials had intelligence indicating a "spectacular" attack involving multiple suicide bombers was imminent, but said they did not have enough specifics to prevent it.

He compared Wednesday's attacks to the assault on hotels, markets and a train station in Mumbai last November that killed 164 in India. Indian officials have blamed the Mumbai attack on the Pakistani-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba. Saleh did not offer any more specifics.

Twenty-one suspects were detained, he said.

The attack comes as Richard Holbrooke, President Barack Obama's newly appointed envoy to the region, is expected imminently in Afghanistan from neighboring Pakistan. Obama has vowed to increase U.S. focus on the resurgent Taliban, including

sending more troops and designating Holbrooke, who is helping the administration chart a new strategy to beat the insurgencies raging in both countries.

The Taliban regularly use suicide bombings in their assaults on Afghan and foreign troops, but attackers have rarely made it inside the barricaded and guarded compounds of government buildings in the capital.

Justice Minister Sarwar Danesh spoke to the AP while he was briefly trapped inside the ministry with a number of government employees.

"They used grenades and AK-47s," Danesh said of the attackers, speaking by mobile phone.

A ministry worker said he scrambled out of a second-floor window to escape an advancing gunman.

"I came out of my office to see what was going on, and I saw a man with an AK-47 shooting at every employee he saw in the hall," said ministry employee Nazir Mohammad, shaking as he spoke. □

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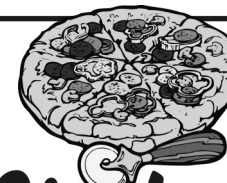
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Mugabe rival takes oath as Zimbabwe prime minister

By ANGUS SHAW

Associated Press Writer

HARARE, Zimbabwe

— President Robert Mugabe swore in his longtime rival as prime minister Wednesday, cracking his nearly three-decade stranglehold on power and conceding they must work together to rescue Zimbabwe from economic and humanitarian disaster.

The image of Mugabe administering the oath of office to Morgan Tsvangirai was extraordinary given the history of state-sponsored violence against opponents. The opposition leader has been beaten and was once nearly thrown from a 10th floor window by suspected government thugs.

Tsvangirai acknowledged in a speech after the ceremony that many Zimbabweans don't think the partnership will work, but he said it is the "only viable arrangement." He promised to begin repairing the economy and healing the country's other wounds.

Government has been gridlocked since elections last March left the presidency in dispute and broke the long-ruling ZANU-PF party's control of Parliament. As the political factions squabbled month after month, the once-vibrant farm economy slumped deeper into calamity. Many people have new hope now that the unity government is taking office, but they also worry about how serious Mugabe will be in sharing control after determinedly holding on to every shred of power since independence from Britain in 1980. He has been under pressure from aides in the military and government who do not want to give up power and prestige to the opposition.

Unusually for a state occasion, no military chiefs were at Wednesday's ceremony. Generals in the past have said they would not salute Tsvangirai, a former labor leader who did not take part in the independence war that ousted a white-minority regime and swept Mugabe to power.

Elphas Mukonoweshoro, an opposition leader who was to

take the oath of minister of public service when the rest of the Cabinet is sworn in Friday, said he wasn't concerned by the absence of the military chiefs. He said it was not a snub, but an effort "to reflect the new Zimbabwe."

At a celebration rally attended by some 15,000 supporters later in the day, Tsvangirai pledged to reopen schools that are closed because teachers can't afford bus fare and to fight a cholera epidemic blamed on the cash-strapped government's neglect of hospitals and sanitation.

He drew the biggest cheers when he said all government workers — from teachers to soldiers — would be paid in hard currency starting next month to shield them from the world's highest inflation rate. He did not say how the government would afford that.

People in the crowd threw Zimbabwe dollars like confetti, expressing their contempt for the nearly worthless currency. The country's economic collapse — for which Tsvangirai holds Mugabe responsible — has left millions of Zimbabwean dependent on international food aid.

Ian Stephens, a Harare businessman, said it was too early to celebrate the new government.

"It depends on how cooperative Mugabe is and whether he can be trusted," Stephens said. "Mugabe no longer has absolute power and that could be the turning point."

Sampson Ibrahim, a street vendor, joined a crowd that watched the ceremony on a TV in the window of an electronics store in downtown Harare.

"I am happy because I expect prices to go down," Ibrahim said. "They've got to get the schools and the hospitals working again."

Mugabe declared during the ceremony that he is offering "my hand of friendship and solidarity to work with (Tsvangirai's party) for the service of Zimbabwe."

"The road to this arrangement has not been easy," the president said later. "It has been a long and tedious road.

But we hope and trust that we have put ourselves to a commitment of making this country work again."

Leaders of neighboring nations pushed for the governing coalition, saying that once Mugabe and Tsvangirai joined in a unity administration they would overcome mutual mistrust and work together for the good of Zimbabwe.

Mugabe, whose 85th birthday is Feb. 21, has in the recent past treated the 56-year-old Tsvangirai as a junior partner at best.

Tsvangirai won the most votes in the first round of the presidential election last March, but withdrew from a June runoff with Mugabe because of widespread attacks on opposition supporters.

Even though Mugabe clung to the presidency, Tsvangirai's decade-old Movement for Democratic Change broke ZANU-PF's lock on parliament in the March election for the first time since independence.

A power-sharing deal was reached in September but it was stalemated for months because the factions couldn't



Morgan Tsvangirai, left, leader of the main opposition party in Zimbabwe takes the oath of Prime Minister, in front of President Robert Mugabe, right, at the State House in Harare, Zimbabwe, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009. Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe swore in his longtime rival Morgan Tsvangirai as prime minister Wednesday, ushering in a unity government in an extraordinary concession after nearly three decades of virtually unchallenged rule.

Associated Press

reach agreement on allotting Cabinet posts. Tsvangirai finally agreed Jan. 30 to join the government and resolve any remaining disputes later. The coalition agreement calls for the government to make reviving the economy its priority. Even if the factions can put aside their differences, they cannot do much without foreign help. State Department

spokesman Robert Wood congratulated Tsvangirai on becoming prime minister. But he said the United States would not ease sanctions or provide development assistance until it sees evidence of "real, true power-sharing on the part of Robert Mugabe."

"We'll just have to wait and see," Wood told reporters Wednesday. □

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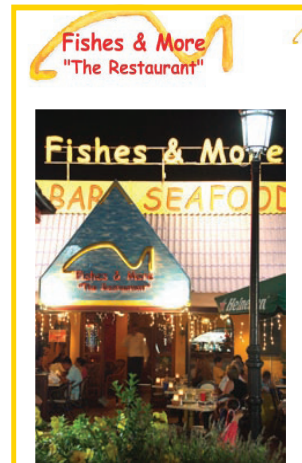


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Bahamas judge denies bail request in Travolta case

NASSAU, Bahamas – A judge refused on Wednesday to lower the bail requirement for an ambulance driver accused of trying to extort \$25 million from actor John Travolta following his son's death in the Bahamas. Tarino Lightbourne, one of the paramedics who tried to revive 16-year-old Jett Travolta, has

been held since Jan. 23 on charges of attempted extortion and conspiracy to extort money.

At a hearing in Nassau, the island chain's capital, Magistrate Carolita Bethel said Lightbourne could apply again next month to reduce his \$50,000 bail requirement if it

still has not been met.

Attorney and former opposition Sen. Pleasant Bridgewater also has been charged with conspiracy in the alleged plot, but she is free on \$50,000 bail. The pair allegedly demanded money in exchange for suppressing a document related to the treatment of the celebrity's

son, who died on Jan. 2 after he suffered a seizure at a family vacation home.

According to police, the document would have released emergency responders from liability if the family refused an ambulance. That did not happen in Jett's case, however, they said.



In this Feb. 24, 2008 file photo, actor John Travolta arrives at the 80th Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Kevork Djansezian, file)

It is unclear why the pair allegedly believed the Travoltas would pay to keep the document from being released.

Another hearing was scheduled for April 16. □



In this Jan. 14, 2009 file photo, actor Will Smith arrives for the premiere of 'Seven Pounds' in London.

(AP Photo/Joel Ryan, file)

Will Smith tops Forbes.com's bankable stars list

NEW YORK – Will Smith was voted the most bankable star in Hollywood in a survey of industry professionals by Forbes.com.

The financial magazine's Web site gives the actor a score of 10 out of 10 for his bankability in its first "star currency" list, compiled by surveying more than 150 industry professionals. Following Smith on the list: Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt, Johnny Depp and Leonardo DiCaprio, who all tied for second with a score of 9.89. Tom Hanks, George Clooney, Denzel Washington, Matt Damon and Jack Nicholson rounded out the top 10.

Smith's superior box-office clout has been long established. He's known for "owning" the July Fourth weekend box office with films such as "Independence Day" and "Men in Black," and has had few flops. □

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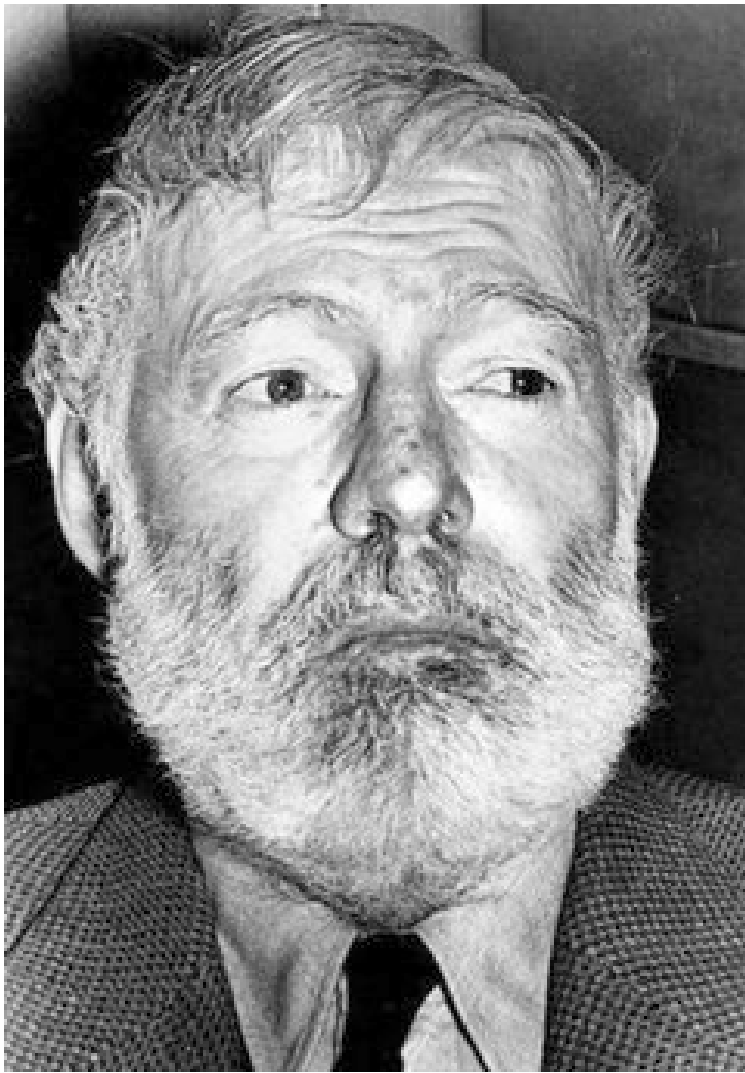
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Thousands of letters by American author Ernest Hemingway, seen here in an undated file photo, containing intimate details of his life are shedding new light on the writer, Cuban researchers said in a media report Wednesday.

(AFP/File)

Hemingway letters shed new light

HAVANA (AFP) – Thousands of letters by American author Ernest Hemingway containing intimate details of his life are shedding new light on the writer, Cuban researchers said in a media report Wednesday.

“There are lots of intimacies in these letters,” researcher Rosalba Diaz told the daily Juventud Rebelde, saying she had been impressed by how many letters had been found which “break with his image of being a wild man.”

Diaz, who is digitalizing more than 3,000 pages of unpublished correspondence, is the curator at Hemingway’s former home Finca Vigia, which Havana has turned into a museum.

“He tried to isolate himself in Cuba, but failed,” she said, adding she had got “goose bumps” when the letters were discovered.

“Researchers will be able to access to Hemingway’s personal documents,” added the director of the museum Ada Alfonso. She said that while there were no major revelations about Hemingway’s life in the letters they “give a much better idea of who Ernest Hemingway really was.”

The Nobel laureate, who penned such classics as “For Whom the Bell Tolls” and “A Farewell to Arms,” moved to Cuba in 1940 where he lived in the villa until 1960. It was there that he wrote “The Old Man and the Sea,” which won him the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954.

He was a frequent visitor to Havana’s bars and restaurants, which are now on the top of any tourist’s agenda when visiting in Cuba.

Hemingway’s home was taken over by Cuban authorities, after the author committed suicide in Idaho in 1961.

Work on restoring and documenting his writing began in 2003 under a historic accord between authorities in the United States and Cuba. □

Michelle Obama: Vogue cover girl

NEW YORK (AFP) – First Lady Michelle Obama is to feature on the cover of the March edition of US Vogue wearing a sleeveless magenta dress as she reclines on a sofa.

The glossy’s website previews Obama’s appearance, only the second first lady to make the cover after Hillary Clinton.

All other first ladies -- except for Harry Truman’s wife Bess -- have been featured in the US edition of the fashion magazine, although not on the cover.

Obama was photographed by Annie Leibovitz in a Jason Wu dress for the issue. She picked the same young Tawian-born designer for her inauguration ball gown on January 20. □



US First Lady Michelle Obama, seen here on February 9, 2009, is to feature on the cover of the March edition of US Vogue wearing a sleeveless magenta dress as she reclines on a sofa.

(AFP/File/Nicholas Kamm)



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The science of romance: Brains have a love circuit

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**,
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — Like any young woman in love, Bianca Acevedo has exchanged valentine hearts with her fiancé. But the New York neuroscientist knows better. The source of love is in the head, not the heart. She's one of the researchers in a relatively new field focused on explaining the biology of romantic love. And the unpoetic explanation is that love mostly can be understood through brain images, hormones and genetics. That seems to be the case for the newly in love, the long in love and the brokenhearted. "It has a biological basis. We know some of the key players," said Larry Young of the Yerkes National Primate

Research Center at Emory University in Atlanta. There, he studies the brains of an unusual monogamous rodent to get a better clue about what goes on in the minds of people in love.

In humans, there are four tiny areas of the brain that some researchers say form a circuit of love. Acevedo, who works at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, is part of a team that has isolated those regions with the unromantic names of ventral tegmental area (VTA), the nucleus accumbens, the ventral pallidum and raphe nucleus. The hot spot is the teardrop-shaped VTA. When people newly in love were put in a functional magnetic resonance imaging machine and shown pictures of their

beloved, the VTA lit up. Same for people still madly in love after 20 years.

The VTA is part of a key reward system in the brain.

"These are cells that make dopamine and send it to different brain regions," said Helen Fisher, a researcher and professor at Rutgers University. "This part of the system becomes activated because you're trying to win life's greatest prize — a mating partner."

One of the research findings isn't so complimentary: Love works chemically in the brain like a drug addiction.

"Romantic love is an addiction; a wonderful addiction when it is going well, a horrible one when it is going poorly," Fisher said. "People kill for love. They die for love."



This Aug. 1, 2005 handout photo provided by Larry Young, PhD., research psychiatrist at the Yerkes National Primate Center at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., shows Dr. Young and his wife Anne at the time of their marriage in San Maguel, Costa Rica

(AP Photo/HO)

The connection to addiction "sounds terrible," Acevedo acknowledged. "Love is supposed to be something wonderful and grand, but it has its reasons. The reason I think is to keep us together." But sometimes love doesn't keep us together. So the scientists studied the brains of the recently heartbroken and found additional activity in the nucleus accumbens, which is even more strongly associated with addiction.

"The brokenhearted show more evidence of what I'll call craving," said Lucy Brown, a neuroscientist also at Einstein medical college. "Similar to craving the drug cocaine."

The team's most recent brain scans were aimed at people married about 20 years who say they are still holding hands, lovey-dovey as newlyweds, a group that is a minority of married people. In these men and women, two more areas of the brain lit up, along with the VTA: the ventral pallidum and raphe nucleus.

The ventral pallidum is associated with attachment and hormones that decrease stress; the raphe nucleus pumps out serotonin, which "gives you a sense of calm," Fisher said.

Those areas produce "a feeling of nothing wrong. It's a lower-level happiness and it's certainly rewarding," Brown said.

The scientists say they study the brain in love just to understand how it works, as well as for more potentially practical uses.

The research could eventually lead to pills based on the brain hormones which, with therapy, might help troubled relationships, although there are ethical issues, Young said. His bonding research is primarily part of a larger effort aimed at understanding and possibly treating social-interaction conditions such as autism. And Fisher is studying brain chemistry that could explain why certain people are attracted to each other. She's using it as part of a popular Internet matchmaking service for which she is the scientific adviser.

While the recent brain research is promising, University of Hawaii psychology professor Elaine Hatfield cautions that too much can be made of these studies alone. She said they need to be meshed with other work from traditional psychologists. □

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Sweet! Cotton candy may help labs grow tissue

By MALCOLM RITTER,
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK – Cotton candy has delighted children for a century. Now it may have found a new role: helping scientists grow replacement tissues for people. The flossy stuff may be just right for creating networks of blood vessels within laboratory-grown bone, skin, muscle or fat for breast reconstruction, researchers suggest.

Dr. Jason Spector of New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York and Leon Bellan of Cornell University present their preliminary research in a paper published online this week by the journal *Soft Matter*.

Here's how their technique would work:

First, you pour a thick liquid chemical over a wad of cotton candy. Let the liquid solidify into a chunk, and put that in warm water to dissolve the candy. That leaves tiny channels where the strands of candy used to be. So you have a chunk of material with a network of fine channels within.

Next, line these channels with cells to create artificial blood vessels. And seed the solid chunk with immature cells of whatever tissue you're trying to make. The block is biodegradable, and as it disappears, it will gradually be replaced by growing tissue. In the end, you get a piece of tissue permeated with tiny blood vessels.

So far, the researchers have made these blocks of material and run rat blood through the channels within. While they may eventually switch to something other than cotton candy as the research proceeds, Bellan said he hopes to stick with the inexpensive stuff as long as possible.

Spector, who keeps a jar of jelly beans on his desk, said he enjoys cotton candy and that with this project, "it's taken on a whole new meaning."

But don't offer any of the stuff to his research partner.

"I actually hate cotton candy," Bellan said. "It's disgusting. I won't eat it." □

A child eats cotton candy during a temple fair for the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year, which starts on January 26 this year, in Beijing January 19, 2009.

REUTERS/Jason Lee (CHINA)



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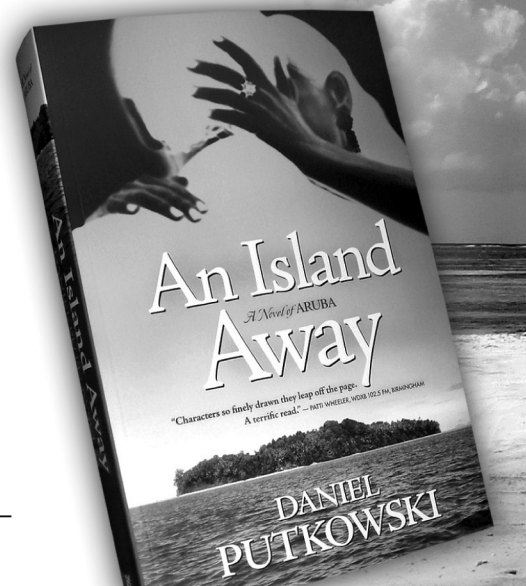
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A Better Deal, But Not a New 'New Deal'

The Nation -- Prodded by President Obama, leaders of the House and Senate agreed Wednesday afternoon to a new version of the stimulus package that is supposed to jumpstart a sputtering economy.

The agreement restored some of the cuts to school construction and state aids that were made when Senate Democrats capitulated to Republican demands for sharp cuts in actual stimulus spending. It also eliminates some of the tax giveaways inserted by GOP senators, which ran the cost of the Senate bill up to \$838 billion.

Still, the new \$789 billion measure is a disappointing proposal compared with the with the \$819 billion House plan.

The price tags are not the issue.

It all comes down to what the money is spent on.

This remains a compromise agreement that is packed with ill-considered Republican tax schemes.

The latest variation on the stimulus -- which most Americans imagine as a job-creation measure -- includes just \$150 billion in spending for infrastructure projects, including transportation initiatives.

That's less than one-fifth of the overall package.

While there is more money for ailing state governments -- which also put people to work -- the allocation has been slashed to \$35 billion less than had been proposed by the House.

Some school construction money has been restored, but the latest version of the bill lacks \$16 billion that had been proposed for that purpose. Additionally, according to the New York Times, it "sharply curtailed health care subsidies for the unemployed."

The frankest assessment of the measure as it now stands comes from Iowa Senator Tom Harkin, who says: "I am not happy with it. You are not looking at a happy camper. I mean, they took a lot of stuff out of education. They took it

out of health, school construction and they put it more into tax issues."

The Iowa Democrat notes that nine percent of the stimulus bill is now committed to restructuring the alternative minimum tax, a Republican priority that was to be dealt with later this year in a tax bill.

"Why is it in there?" Harkin asked. "It has nothing to do with stimulus. It has nothing to do with recovery. This makes no sense whatsoever."

Harkin's right. Starving stimulus spending in order to pay for tax schemes -- especially when the issues at hand were going to be addressed in short order -- is madness in the midst of an economic crisis.

But that's what you get when too much emphasis is placed on false "bipartisanship" and empty "compromising" at a point when bold leadership and action are needed.

The story of the stimulus fight is not quite finished. This bill will have to make it through the House and Senate one more time.

Most Republicans are still likely to oppose this measure, even though they have defined it to a far greater extent than their minority status would have predicted.

A few progressive Democrats, who fear that this compromise plan is too stingy and misguided to restart the economy, might voice objections as well.

That said, the agreement reached today very probably approximates the legislation that will be signed in short order by President Obama.

If this proves to be the case, America will get a better deal than the Senate was willing to provide. But it won't get the new "New Deal" that Democrats in the House -- led by Appropriations Committee Chair David Obey -- tried to deliver.

If it works, everyone will take credit.

If it fails, the blame will rest with Republicans who demanded compromises and Democrats who agreed to them. □

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Stimulus Deal Reached

Christopher Hayes

So it looks like the House and Senate have struck a deal on the stimulus package. The final figure is \$789 billion, which, as many economists have argued is almost certainly too little.

Somewhat surprisingly, the number is smaller than both the House and Senate bills, and details are still a bit unclear about what was cut and/or put back in. From what I'm hearing some of the school construction money and a bit of the state fiscal aid made it back in, while the obscene \$15,000 per person new home purchase tax credit was scaled back as were some of the Obama tax cuts.

I'm very curious to see if the House negotiators managed to get the green renovation of federal buildings put back in because that was one of the single most sensible items in the whole bill and Obama himself made a spirited and convincing case for keeping it in at his press conference on Monday night.

I haven't seen the final bill, but based on what I've heard, I'd give it something like a B-. That said, the clock really is ticking and it is far, far, far better than nothing. There's a lot in this bill to be genuinely enthused about, but I'm going to try to comb through more of the details before reporting.

UPDATE: According to the Times, the AMT fix stays in the bill, which is crap. Let me associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Iowa

Mr. Harkin said he was particularly frustrated by the money being spent on fixing the alternative minimum tax. "It's about 9 percent of the whole bill," he said, "which we were going to do later this year in a tax bill. Why is it in there? It has nothing to do with stimulus. It has nothing to do with recovery. This makes no sense whatsoever." □



KEEP ARUBA CLEAN...



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Bankers vow to work for financial system reform

By JIM KUHNHENN,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Facing a disgusted public and Congress, bank CEOs agreed with demands for greater accountability Wednesday in the first testimony on how they're spending money from the taxpayer-funded \$700 billion bailout.

"Both our firm and our industry have far to go to regain the trust of taxpayers, investors and public officials," John J. Mack, head of Morgan Stanley, told the House Financial Institutions Committee.

Added JP Morgan Chase & Co.'s Jamie Dimon: "We stand ready to do our part going forward."

The eight top bankers appearing before the panel were generally contrite and conceded they have work to do to win over a bitter public and an exasperated Congress. They had little choice but to acknowledge as much, given intense anger and anxiety as the troubled financial system continues to spiral downward in an ever-worsening recession.

Taxpayers are furious with big banks that benefited from the federal bailout designed to get credit moving again, but which also spent lavishly on executive bonuses, company retreats and office redecorating.

Lawmakers also are feeling the heat for signing off on the bailout package plan, which was conceived last year under President Bush and now is in the hands of President Barack Obama.

"I urge you going forward to be ungrudgingly cooperative," Rep. Barney Frank, chairman of the panel, told the CEOs as the hearing opened. "There has to be a sense of the American people that you understand their anger ... and that you're willing to make some sacrifices."

Frank, D-Mass., also asked banks to impose a moratorium on mortgage foreclosures until Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner comes up with a systemwide mortgage modification.

The panel's top Republican, Spencer Bachus of Alabama, said the bankers and Congress must sway people by "winning back their trust and their confidence."

Over more than four hours, the CEOs were met with deep skepticism from lawmakers who aggressively quizzed them

on how they have used more than \$160 billion in taxpayers' money.

Repeatedly, lawmakers were scornful and treated the financial heavyweights almost like naughty schoolchildren, ordering them to raise their hands to indicate their responses to blanket questions about their own use of perks and any policy changes made since accepting the bailout money.

"You created the mess we're in," scolded Michael Capuano, D-Mass. "And now you're saying 'Sorry. Trust us.' ... America doesn't trust you anymore."

At one point, under questioning from Rep. Dennis Moore, D-Kan., the CEOs went down the line disclosing how much bailout money their institutions received last year and how much they personally made. Their salaries ranged from \$600,000 to \$1.5 million annually, without bonuses.

The initial spending of the bailout money was secretive, lacking strict requirements that the banks account publicly for how they were using it. Banks weren't helped by reports that Wall Street firms doled out more than \$18 billion in bonuses to their employees last year or that Goldman Sachs and Wells Fargo had planned conferences in Las Vegas.

Most of these bankers didn't beg for their money. They were selected because they were relative healthy banks that could spur more banking activity and eliminate the stigma of taking taxpayer money for other financial institutions.

One by one, the CEOs applauded the program for making more loans available and promised to pay their share of the money back to the Treasury over time. Several asserted that none of the government's money went to bonuses or dividends.

"We are frugal," said Wells Fargo's John Stumpf.

Citigroup CEO Vikram Pandit said his salary would be set at \$1 with no bonus until the company makes money again.

He also struck an apologetic tone for letting the bank consider buying a private jet plane after receiving bailout money. The bank ultimately scrapped the plan under pressure from Obama.

"We did not adjust quickly enough to this new world," Pandit said. "I get the new

reality and I will make sure Citi gets it as well."

Most, if not all, were contrite.

"We understand taxpayers are angry" and they are right in demanding that institutions receiving their money take a "conservative, sober and frugal" approach to using it, said Kenneth D. Lewis of Bank of America.

Added Lloyd C. Blankfein of the Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.: "We have to regain the public's trust and do everything we can to help mend our financial system to restore stability and vitality."

Robert P. Kelly of The Bank of New York Mellon promised "a very good return on the investment for taxpayers" and acknowledged "we still have a long way to go" to jump start the U.S. credit market.

Hearings on the bailout were taking place across the Capitol, with the CEOs appearing in the House while Neil Barofsky, the watchdog of the government's Wall Street rescue package, testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

FBI Deputy Director John Pistoletold that Senate panel that there are 530 active corporate fraud investigations, and 38 of them involve corporate fraud



From right, Wells Fargo & Co. President and Chief Executive Officer John Stumpf; Citigroup Chief Executive Officer Vikram Pandit; Morgan Stanley Chairman and Chief Executive Officer John Mack; State Street Corporation Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ronald E. Logue; Bank of America Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ken Lewis; Bank of New York Mellon Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Robert P. Kelly; and JPMorgan Chase & Co. Chief Executive Officer James Dimon, and testify on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009, before the House Financial Services Committee.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

and financial institution matters directly related to the economic crisis. Meanwhile, New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo accused Merrill Lynch & Co. executives of corporate irresponsibility by secretly and prematurely awarding \$3.6 billion in bonuses as taxpayers

were bailing out the industry. Cuomo made the claims in a letter to Frank, saying that Bank of America, which acquired Merrill last fall, was apparently complicit in the move to award bonuses before Merrill's dismal fourth quarter earnings were announced. □

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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks extend slide, one day after steep selloff



Traders Warren Meyers, left, and Michael Urkonis work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

By SARA LEPRO and TIM PARADIS,

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK – Investors were still cautious Wednesday, a day after a steep selloff on Wall Street, as questions lingered over plans for shoring up U.S.

banks.

Stocks drifted lower in the early afternoon, erasing earlier gains, following a 4.6 percent decline in the Dow Jones industrial average the day before as the market registered disappointment over the

government's update on its financial rescue package.

Financial stocks, the hardest hit on Tuesday, showed the biggest gains. But selling in energy and technology shares left the market somewhat lower.

Chief executives of the nation's top banks were appearing Wednesday before a House committee to answer questions about how they have put to use more than \$160 billion in taxpayer money to date.

Anthony Conroy, managing director and head trader for BNY ConverEx Group, said investors are simply trying to keep ahead of the rush of news about the banking system.

"I think everybody is trying to get through all this news. Without healthy financials it's very hard to have a healthy economy," he said. "Everybody has to digest all the tidbits of information that are coming out."

Washington was once again the driving factor behind the market's moves on Wednesday, as it was the day before when investors showed frustration with what they saw as a lack of details from Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner on how the government plans to direct more than \$1 trillion in public and private aid to support the ailing financial system.

The plan is meant to expand the government's efforts to unfreeze the credit markets and encourage more normal lending by banks to consumers and businesses. The latest plans also call for a government-private sector partnership to help remove banks' bad assets from their balance sheets.

Philip S. Dow, managing director of equity strategy at RBC Wealth Management, said investors are eager for any insights into which banks might survive and which

others might not. He said the plan announced Tuesday didn't help investors answer that question and that it skirted the reality that some banks might succumb to enormous asset write-downs.

"Somebody has to take some losses," he said. "The market is hungry for some kind of a plan with very specific steps to it and what we got was nothing of the order."

In midafternoon trading, the Dow industrials fell 6.06, or 0.08 percent, to 7,882.82.

Broader stock indicators also fell. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 1.39, or 0.17 percent, to 825.77, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 9.26, or 0.61 percent, to 1,515.47.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 1.70, or 0.38 percent, to 444.07.

Declining issues narrowly outnumbered advancers on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 739.7 million shares.

Bond prices were mixed. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 2.75 percent from 2.82 percent late Tuesday. The yield on the three-month T-bill, considered one of the safest investments, rose to 0.31 percent from 0.30 percent late Tuesday.

The dollar was mixed against other major currencies. Gold prices rose.

Light, sweet crude fell \$1.18 to \$36.37 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Investors are also awaiting a resolution on a more than \$800 billion economic stimulus package that passed in the Senate on Tuesday. Republican and Democratic leaders are still at odds over how much money should be directed to certain programs. The final version of the bill is expected to reach President

Barack Obama's desk within days.

In economic news, the U.S. trade deficit fell to the lowest level in nearly six years in December on a sharp drop in imports. The recession has cut demand for oil, autos and other foreign-made products. The trade deficit shrank by 3.3 percent in 2008. Economists expect an even bigger decline this year.

Meanwhile, Research in Motion Ltd. weighed on the technology-heavy Nasdaq. The maker of BlackBerry devices warned after the end of trading Tuesday that its fourth-quarter earnings likely will come in at the low end of its forecast. The stock fell \$10.14, or 18 percent, to \$46.90.

Swiss bank Credit Suisse Group reported a fourth-quarter net loss of \$5.61 billion, much worse than analysts expected, as its asset management and investment banking units lost money amid the financial crisis.

Luxury homebuilder Toll Brothers Inc. fell 39 cents, or 2.1 percent, to \$18.19 after reporting that its first-quarter home building revenue fell 51 percent as the downturn in the housing market continued to weigh on results.

The reports underscored just how disappointing this earnings season has been, with many companies forecasting for poor business conditions through the end of the year.

Among bank stocks, Bank of America Corp. rose 41 cents, or 7.4 percent, to \$5.97, while JPMorgan Chase & Co. rose 89 cents, or 3.6 percent, to \$25.51. State Street Corp. rose \$1.10, or 4.1 percent, to \$27.71.

Overseas, Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.50 percent, Germany's DAX index gained 0.54 percent, and France's CAC-40 rose 0.23 percent.



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